

Estimation of the Sockeye Salmon escapement into McLees Lake, Unalaska Island, Alaska, 2002

Abstract: From June 1 to July 29, 2002, a flexible picket weir was used to collect abundance, run timing, and biological data from sockeye salmon returning to McLees Lake on Unalaska Island. A total of 97,780 sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*, and one Chinook *O. tshawytscha* salmon were counted through the weir. Peak passage occurred from June 18 through July 9 when 60,203 (62%) sockeye salmon entered McLees Lake. The sockeye salmon return to McLees Lake during 2002 was about twice that observed during 2001 when 45,866 sockeye were counted through the weir.

Six age groups were identified from 751 sockeye salmon sampled from the weir escapement between June 4 and July 24. This escapement was composed primarily of age 1.2 (60.1%) and 1.3 (31.7%) fish. Females composed an estimated 43.2% of the sampled sockeye salmon escapement. Age composition did not differ between sexes.

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